

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /097 W

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R 180726Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7674

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 10867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, PLO

SUBJ: REQUESTS THAT PRIMIN BHUTTO PARTICIPATE IN UNGA
DEBATE ON PALESTINE.

1. PRESS HERE REPORTS PRIMIN BHUTTO LAST WEEK RECEIVED
INVITATIONS FROM PLO CHIEF YASSER ARAFAT "PERSONNALLY AND
ON BEHALF OF RABAT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE" AND FROM
MUHAMMOOD RIAD, SECGEN ARAB LEAGUE, TO PARTICIPATE
IN UNGA DEBATE ON PALESTINE. RIAD, PRESS REPORTS,
REQUESTED BHUTTO'S PRESENCE AS "EXPRESSION OF ARAB
ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY AND IN APPRECIATION OF BHUTTO'S ROLE
IN STRENGTHENING AND CONSOLIDATING IT."

2. BHUTTO, WHO WAS ON MEET-THE-MASSES TOUR OF LOWER
PUNJAB AT TIME, DECLINED INVITATIONS, PLEADING SHORT
NOTICE AND DOMESTIC PREOCCUPATIONS AS REASONS FOR NOT
ACCEPTING.

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3. BESIDES BHUTTO, ARAFAT AND RIAD REPORTEDLY INVITED

FOUR HEADS OF STATE TO PARTICIPATE: KING HASSAN, PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE OF SOMALIA, AND PRESIDENT FRANJIEH OF LEBANON. OF THEM, ALL BUT FRANJIEH DECLINED BECAUSE PRIOR COMMITMENTS, PRESS REPORTS SAID.

4. WHILE NOT ACCEPTING INVITATION, BHUTTO DID OFFER CONTINUING ESPOUSAL OF PALESTINE CAUSE. IN REPLY TO RIAD, HE SAID THAT "PAKISTAN WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT, NOW OR IN FUTURE, TO UPHOLD DEMAND OF OUR ARAB BRETHREN FOR RESTORATION OF LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." REPLY SAID BHUTTO HAD INSTRUCTED PAK UN DEL TO "OFFER EVERY POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO PLO AND OTHER ARAB DELS FOR ADOPTION OF SUITABLE RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE ISSUE."

5. ACCOUNT, OBVIOUSLY BASED ON GOP PRESS RELEASE, WAS GIVEN WIDE PLAY IN ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR PRESS. FOLLOWING NORMAL PRACTICE FOR STRESSING PAK SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIM BROTHERS, MOST NEWSPAPERS BANNER HEADLINED STORY, AND PRINTED TEXT OF MESSAGES.

6. COMMENT: WHATEVER HIS DOMESTIC CONCERNS WERE (AND HE WAS GENUINELY ENGAGED IN LONG-SCHEDULED TOUR AT TIME) AND HOWEVER FLATTERED HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BY THE INVITATION, BHUTTO IS CERTAINLY ASTUTE ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE WHAT KIND OF IMPACT A VISIT TO THE US IN THE CONTEXT OF A PLO UN APPEARANCE COULD HAVE ON US-PAK RELATIONS.

BYROADE

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